WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. An additive for a cementitious slurry, comprising a mineral component selected from the group consisting of:
 - (i) fly ash having a predominant particle size of up to about 10 microns;
 - (ii) aluminous material having a predominant particle size of up to about 150 microns; and
 - (iii) both the fly ash of (i) and the aluminous material of (ii).
- 2. An additive according to claim 1, wherein the fly ash comprises about 25-60% silica, about 10-30% Al_2O_3 , about 5-25% Fe_2O_3 up to about 20% CaO and up to about 5% MgO.
- 3. An additive according to claim 1, wherein the fly ash comprises about 30-100 wt% based on weight of cement in the slurry.
- 4. An additive according to any one of claim 1, wherein the aluminous material is selected from the group consisting of hydrated alumina, partially hydrated alumina and unhydrated alumina.
- 5. An additive according to claim 1, wherein the aluminous material comprises between about 5 to 30 wt% based on weight of cement in the slurry.
- 6. An additive according to claim 1, wherein the ratio of hydrated alumina to fly ash is between about 1:1 and 1:10.
- 7. An additive according to claim 1, wherein the slurry contains a conventional plasticiser
- 8. An additive according to claim 7 wherein the amount of conventional plasticiser is between about 0.3 and 3 wt% based on weight of the dry cement.
- 9. An additive according to claim 1, wherein the cementitious slurry contains about 5 to 30 wt% of fillers.
- 10. An additive according to claim 1, wherein the mineral component is fly ash having a predominant particle size of up to about 10 microns.
- 11. An additive according to claim 1, wherein the mineral component is aluminous material having a predominant particle size of up to about 150 microns.

12. An additive according to claim 1, wherein the mineral component includes both the fly ash of (i) and the aluminous material of (ii).